

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to detection of pathogenic mycobacteria in clinical specimens such as sputum, cerebrospinal fluid, gastric lavage and tissue biopsies etc., wherein the novel stretch of DNA that lies in the intergenic region between methyl mycolic acid synthase genes *mmaA1* and *mmaA2* and the flanking region in *mmaA1* and *mmaA2* genes and is the invention uses a pair of designed oligonucleotide primers that specifically amplifies the target DNA from the clinical specimens